

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 8 of the application with the following, wherein deleted material is shown by double brackets and added material is underlined:

Heel plate 600, depicted in FIGS. [[6]] 6A-6B, is disposed between shock-absorbing layer 500 and support component 700. In addition to providing a firm surface that supports the heel region of the wearer's foot, heel plate 600 distributes the shear forces associated with impact among the various support elements 701-704. Accordingly, heel plate 600 may be formed of a lightweight, durable material having a moderate flexural modulus, such as polyester, nylon, or a polyether block copolyamide, and may contain short glass fibers.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 9 of the application with the following, wherein deleted material is shown by double brackets and added material is underlined:

Support component 700, depicted in FIGS. [[7]] 7A-7D, includes four support elements 701-704 connected by a common base 760. Support elements 701-704 are arranged such that first support element 701 is located in the back-lateral corner of the heel region; second support element 702 is located in the back-medial corner of the heel region; third support element 703 is located on the lateral side of the heel region and forward of first support element 701; and fourth support element 704 is located on the medial side of the heel region and forward of second support element 702. Base 760 is formed integral with and extends between support elements 701-704. In the alternative, support elements 701-704 may be formed separately.

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 10 of the application with the following, wherein deleted material is shown by double brackets and added material is underlined:

Interior surface 742 is located opposite exterior surface 732 and defines interior void 752. In the embodiment of FIGS. [[7]] 7A-7D, interior void 752 extends through upper surface 712, but does not extend through lower surface 721. Alternatively, interior void may extend through

both upper surface 712 and lower surface 722, through neither upper surface 712 nor lower surface 722, or through only lower surface 722. Lower surface 722 is primarily located in a horizontal plane.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 11 of the application with the following, wherein deleted material is shown by double brackets and added material is underlined:

Support elements 703 and 704 have characteristics similar to those of support element 702. Support element 701, however, includes a differing configuration on lower surface 721. Whereas support elements, 702-704 have a substantially horizontal lower surface, lower surface 721 of support element 701 includes a downward bevel in a lateral-to-medial and a back-to-front direction, as depicted in FIGS. [[7]] 7A-7D. A suitable angle by which the bevel departs from a horizontal plane, represented in FIG. 5 as angle 520, is 7.5 degrees, but may range from 5 to 10 degrees. A flange 726 extends around peripheral portions of lower surface 721. More specifically, flange 726 is located adjacent to lower portions of exterior surface 711 in the back, back-lateral, and lateral portions of support element 701. In addition to extending upward so as to cover lower portions of exterior surface 731, flange 726 extends downward below the plane of other portions of lower surface 721. As will be described below, flange 726 overhangs base plate 900 and attaches to outsole 450.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 12 of the application with the following, wherein deleted material is shown by double brackets and added material is underlined:

Midsole 400 also includes wedge 800, as depicted in FIGS. [[8]] 8A-8B, which is located forward of support component 700 and between heel plate 600 and base plate 900. The function of wedge 800 is to absorb impact forces and provide support to the midfoot region of footwear 100, thereby preventing a collapse of heel plate 600. An upper surface 810 of wedge 800 is attached, possibly using an adhesive, to wedge attachment area 650 of heel plate 600. Similarly, a lower surface 820 of wedge 800 is attached to base plate 900. A portion of wedge 800 may

overhang base plate 900, thereby attaching to outsole 450. Suitable materials from which wedge 800 may be formed include polyurethane and phylon.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 12 of the application with the following, wherein deleted material is shown by double brackets and added material is underlined:

Base plate 900, depicted in FIGS. [[9]] 9A-9B, is located above outsole 450 and under support component 700 and wedge 800. The purpose of base plate 900 is to distribute the shear forces associated with impact among the various support elements 701-704. Accordingly, base plate 900 may be formed of a lightweight, durable material having a moderate flexural modulus, such as polyester, nylon, or polyether block copolyamide, for example.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 14 of the application with the following, wherein deleted material is shown by strikethrough and added material is underlined:

To counter bending, base plate 900 distributes the shear force among the various support elements 701-704, but does not significantly distribute the compressive force. As depicted in FIG. 9 FIGS. 9A-9B, the width and length of base plate 900 is significantly greater than the height. Given this configuration, base plate 900 resists bending in the horizontal direction and is semi-rigid in response to forces in the vertical direction. Accordingly, base plate 900 flexes upward to permit a significant portion of the compressive force to act upon support element 701. With regard to the shear force, however, base plate 900 resists horizontal deformation and transfers the shear forces among the four support elements 701 to 704.